

CONGRESSMAN

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OBAMACARE LAW TURNS TWO

Today, President Obama's health care law turns two, but don't look for celebration from the White House. The president and his administration know full well their new health care law is mostly unpopular with the American people.

Two years ago, then House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said "you have to pass the [health care] bill so you can find out what it is." With a price tag that's already nearly double what the president originally promised, not to mention more Americans potentially losing access to their preferred care under the new law, many are definitely not in a celebratory mood today.

A recent ABC News/Washington Post poll found that Americans approve Obamacare by a 52 to 40 percent margin. Two-thirds, 72 percent, are unhappy with the health care law's individual mandate that everyone buy insurance or face a penalty, according to a Gallup poll.

The president's health care law doesn't fully take effect for another two years, but efforts to strip it are building momentum. Since January 12, 2011, the House has already voted more than two dozen times to either repeal, defund or weaken Obamacare.

The latest such vote occurred yesterday when I joined 222 of my House colleagues to repeal the health care law's Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB). This 15-member board of selected transients has been given authority under the health care law to find new ways to cut Medicare spending. Medicare has already taken a \$775 billion cut to pay for Obamacare, and the board's decisions could limit seniors' access to care and services even further.

On the legal front, Alabama and a majority of states continue to challenge Obamacare in court. The U.S. Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the case relating to the health care law's individual mandate beginning next week. While most Americans disapprove of the

The Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act

11th Congress of the United States
P.L. 111-148

Yesterday, the House passed legislation that targets one of the biggest causes of skyrocketing medical care costs: malpractice lawsuits. According to the Harvard School of Public Health, 40 percent of malpractice suits are "without merit." In order to avoid costly lawsuits, doctors often engage in defensive medicine, ordering tests and prescribing medicines that are not medically necessary. They are also forced to pay higher premiums for malpractice insurance. Medical malpractice reform is a long-needed common sense step to controlling the price of health care.

In addition to medical liability reform, I also support offering Americans the ability to purchase health insurance across state lines, expanding access to health savings accounts, and offering the right to coverage regardless of pre-existing conditions.

Insurance can do more to improve the cost and availability of health care and health insurance, but Obamacare's big government, big choice approach is not the answer. The House has shown leadership in not only standing up to Obamacare's costly mandates but in demonstrating that solutions can be adopted to preserve Americans' access to the care and doctors they prefer.

NAVY BUYS TWO MORE AUSTAL LCS

AUSTIN, USA, continues to manufacture cutting-edge aluminum ships for the Navy. This week the Mobile-based ship maker announced the Navy has exercised its option to purchase two additional *Austal* combat ships.

The *Gloucester* (LCS-16) and the *Onizuka* (LCS-17) will follow AUSTAL's previous LCS vessels, the *Independence* and *Coronado* from the AUSTAL shipyard into service in defense of America. The *Independence* is currently undergoing sea trials while the *Coronado* is nearing completion.

The Navy's current \$3.5 billion contract with AUSTAL allows for the purchase of up to ten LCS. The Navy has a separate contract with AUSTAL to build up to nine Joint High-Speed Transits (JHSVs) in Mobile.

The two Navy contracts will provide almost \$900 million in yearly revenue for the company which is on track to hire over 4,000 employees by 2014.



It was a privilege to participate in a ceremony honoring the Century 21st Naval Band and World War II Veterans. The band will soon travel to Honolulu, Hawaii to perform at Pearl Harbor and compete in the Hawaii International International Music Festival. Pictured with me above is band member (Sebastian) Jones.

ALABAMA'S FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT — BALDWIN, CLARKE, SCHWAB, MERRILL, MURPHY AND WASHINGTON CRAWFORD

Click the image above to view Congressman Bonner's March-April Cyber Report